

Committee  
General and Military

## RECORD OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date April 8, 1975, 19       

Members Present Senators: Alden, Branon, Soule, Reynolds, O'Brien, R.

Persons heard Ben Scotch, Asst. A. B.; James S. Suskin, Assistant Attorney General;  
Charles Nichols; Barry Steinhart; Kimberly Cheney; Bob Stewart; Karen Kent

BILL, Etc., Considered

### OTHER BUSINESS CONSIDERED

Kim Cheney - Background - Similar bill proposed last session Summer study committee  
(Don Smith, Hamilton, Davis, Harrison (ACLU), Report etc., - in file.)

No objections to bill from several departments and agencies

Statement on file.

Vt. ~ 1 of 3 states with no public access.

Suggests adding A.G.O. after Sec. 318. See proposed in file.

Sen. Gannett: What examples of local government that are desiring information?

Ben Scotch: A. G. supports bill.

Problems are raised whenever a mode of sound change is proposed.

Threats usually not as great in reality as in prospect.

Disruption usually not great.

Abuses can be dealt with - Entire concept can be repealed.

Rule of the A.G. in process - should be a quasi-adjucator.

Regret to know law does not require access to documents.

A.A. should try to reconcile differences at local level on an informed and  
practical basis.

Barry Steinhart - Statement included in files.

Charles Nichols - Good law except for application to local government.

P. 2 l. 7 & 11 - Does a student have a right to all records?

P. 3 l. 9. - too comprehensive. Would ham<sup>s</sup> budget process.

P. 5 l. 18 - certify in writing ) et. al. When, where?

6 l. 10-11 " " "

P. 8 d. what happens when couplamant has not prevailed?

H \_\_\_\_\_  
S \_\_\_\_\_

Problems have come about because of Rep. Allards difficulty with BFA, St. Albans and Rep. Macleod's problems with Highway Dept.

Rob Stewart - Proposed legislation is unnecessary.

Not convinced of evidence of large number of denials of information at local level.

Well written piece of legislation.

Objections - bill does not deal with records that are on computer.

Entire Grand List of Burlington is on computer.

Karen Kent - No one from business sector on drafting committee

Confidential material should be left confidential.

R. O'Brien, Clerk